

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 14, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We write to you today in support of Taiwan's participation in Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Global Entry program and urge the signing of an agreement that achieves this goal and provides reciprocal benefits for U.S. citizens. Extending Global Entry's expedited clearance process to pre-approved visitors from Taiwan, a longtime strategic and trading partner of the United States, will help solidify economic, security and people-to-people ties that form the foundation of the United States' commitment to the Asia-Pacific region.

Tourism from Taiwan has made a significant contribution to our economy and job creation. According to the U.S. Travel Association, every \$1 million spent by international visitors directly supported 6.6 jobs in the travel industry. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates the 413,000 Taiwanese that visited our country last year spent \$2.1 billion which ranked within the top 20 of inbound travelers from abroad.

Travel underpins the business and trade ties between the American people and a world of opportunities for businesses large and small. 492,000 U.S. residents visited Taiwan in 2014 according to the Commerce Department. Bilateral trade reached \$67.4 billion in 2014, making Taiwan the United States' 10th largest trading partner. Of key importance is the ease of which business or leisure visitors from Taiwan or anywhere in the world can arrive at their destination in a safe and secure manner. As Global Entry members undergo a prescreening process in return for faster customs and immigration clearance on arrival, it is critical that this benefit is available for visitors from Taiwan to the United States and Americans traveling to Taiwan.

Taiwan's membership in Global Entry would not only provide its passport holders a smoother visit to the U.S. but also help make our country safer by enhancing bilateral law enforcement cooperation. In November 2012, the Department of Homeland Security announced the designation of Taiwan as a member of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) which requires member governments to enhance security-related information sharing, timely reporting of lost and stolen passports and maintaining high counter-terrorism law enforcement, immigration control, aviation and travel document security standards.

In June 2015, the American Institute in Taiwan, which represents U.S. interests in the absence of formal diplomatic relations, affirmed the renewal of Taiwan's participation in the VWP stating it "underscores the fact that Taiwan continues to comply with key security and information-sharing requirements, and that the partnership between the United States and Taiwan remains strong." Expansion of Global Entry to Taiwan will promote even closer security cooperation with Taiwan, a key gateway from Asia to our country, and help direct CBP resources to higher-risk, unknown travelers and enforcement.

We strongly support Taiwan's membership in CBP's Global Entry Program and urge the efforts towards this goal to be accelerated. We request an update on our engagement with the Taiwan authorities on this issue.

Sincerely,



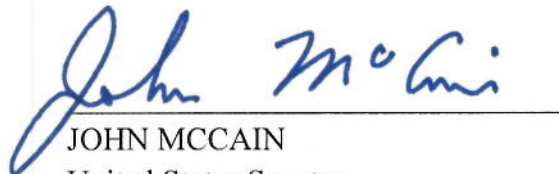
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United States Senator

cc: R. Gil Kerlikowske, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner



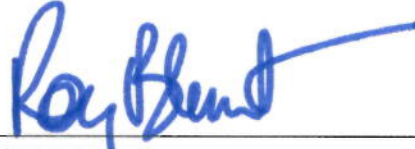
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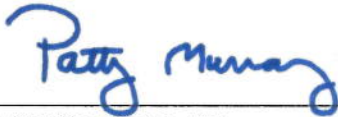
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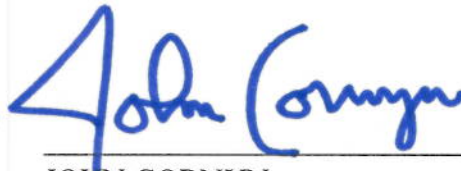
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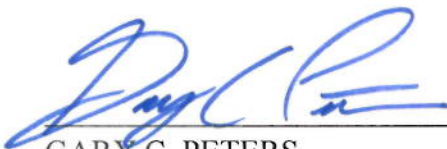
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